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# Help Find Bird Flu

## Hunters Can Help Scientists Look For "Bird Flu" in the U.S.

Knowing where and when the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza (AI) virus appears is the first step in preventing its spread.

### Help Find Bird Flu:

- **Report** any unusual or large die-offs of wild birds to your local wildlife officials or to 1-866-4-USDA-WS.
- **Participate** in bird sampling at hunter check stations. Sampling is a simple swabbing of the bird. No birds are taken.

### Hunting Wild Birds is Safe:

- The most severe form of avian influenza has not been found in the U.S. in wild birds or domestic poultry.
- Wild birds could spread the disease to domestic poultry.

### TIPS FOR HANDLING AND EATING WILD BIRDS:

- Do not handle or eat obviously sick birds.
- Always wash your hands after handling birds.
- Disinfect your cleaning equipment and cleaning surfaces.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning game.
- Cook meat thoroughly to 165°F.

You can find out more on avian influenza by visiting:  
[www.usda.gov/birdflu](http://www.usda.gov/birdflu)



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